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The Trees At Mount Vernon

By
Charles Sprague Sargent

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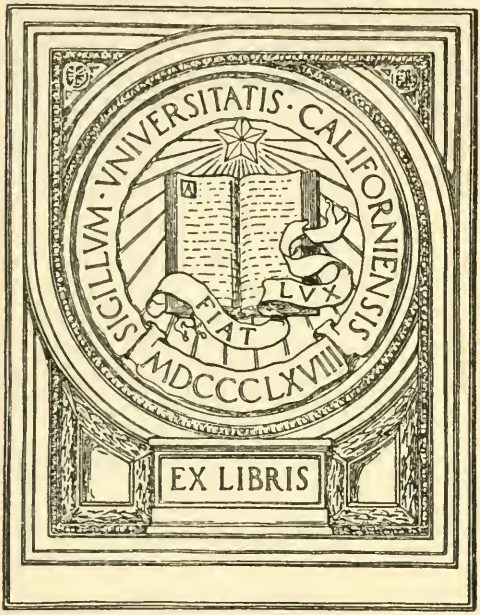


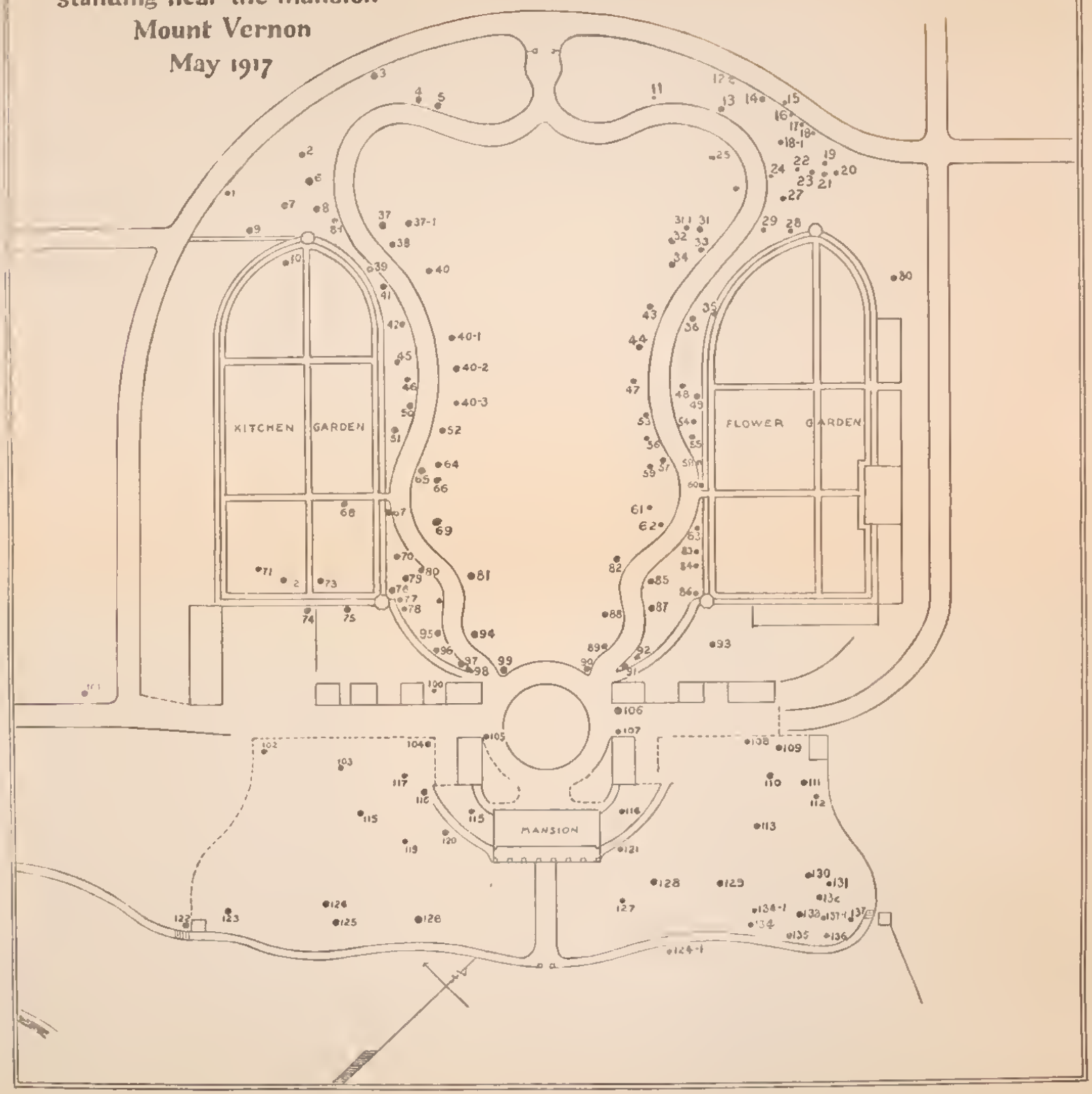
GIFT OF
Eugene E. Prussing

The Trees at Mount Vernon

Report of Charles Sprague Sargent
Director of the Arnold Arboretum, to the Council of the
Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union

Reprinted from the Annual Report for 1917 of the Mount Vernon
Ladies' Association of the Union

Plan showing positions of the trees standing near the mansion Mount Vernon May 1917



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THE TREES AT MOUNT VERNON

By CHARLES SPRAGUE SARGENT

It appears desirable to place on record the size and condition of the trees planted by Washington near his house at Mount Vernon and of those now standing which have been planted or have sprung up naturally in the neighborhood of the Mansion since Washington's death in 1799.

The largest trees, which border the Bowling Green, were probably planted from 1783 to 1785, for it was in these years following the end of the Revolutionary War and preceding his election to the Presidency that Washington was most actively engaged in the improvement of Mount Vernon, and it was at this time that the Bowling Green and the adjoining gardens were laid out.

A few of the trees planted by Washington, in spite of the poor soil at Mount Vernon, have grown to a large size. Among the Live Oaks and Pecans planted in Louisiana after Washington's time there are larger trees than any now at Mount Vernon, and some of the Elm-trees planted in front of New England farmhouses after the middle of the eighteenth century have thicker trunks and broader heads of foliage. Larger planted trees exist in Europe, and in Japan many Cryptomeria-trees, some of them planted six or seven centuries ago, surpass in size and grandeur all other planted trees; but no trees planted by man have the human interest of the Mount Vernon trees. They belong to the nation and are one of its precious possessions. No care should be spared to preserve them, and as they pass away they should be replaced with trees of the same kinds, that Mount Vernon may be kept for all time as near as possible in the condition in which Washington left it.

Judging by their size and position, there are now standing fifty-seven trees which were probably planted by Washington or during his lifetime. The position of other comparatively large trees are shown on the plan which accompanies this report and on which the trees are numbered; and it is possible that some of these were growing during Washington's life, especially the Oaks, but as Washington made no allusion in his Diary to planting Oak-trees it is probable that as these are trees native to the region they were self-sown.

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YELLOW POPLARS—Of the trees undoubtedly planted under Washington's personal direction the tallest are the Tulip-trees or Yellow Poplars (*Liriodendron Tulipifera*). There are three of these trees now standing. The tallest of them (No. 62) is 120 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 10 inches in diameter. Another (No. 57) is 118 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 8 inches in diameter. These two trees have tall, straight stems and well-balanced, shapely heads. They have both been injured near the ground, probably by a mowing machine in the hands of a careless workman, but they are both now forming new bark over the old wounds and are generally in good condition. The third of these trees (No. 65) is 89 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 9 inches in diameter. This tree is in good condition.

COFFEE BEANS—Among the trees which are probably of Washington's time there are three Coffee Beans or Kentucky Coffee-trees (*Gymnocladus dioica*). The tallest of these (No. 76) is 87 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 11 inches in diameter. Several of the branches were broken in the storm of June 28, 1914, and in spite of its having been struck by lightning in 1915, this tree is still in healthy condition. The second of these trees (No. 89) is 87 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 8 inches in diameter, and the third (No. 70) is 85 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 3 inches in diameter. These trees are healthy and in good condition. The position of three other Coffee Bean-trees is shown on the map. No. 84 is 70 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 4 inches in diameter. It is generally believed at Mount Vernon that this tree was planted by Lafayette, but I have no evidence confirming this belief. The head was badly injured by a storm in September, 1896, and it is now unsightly and in poor condition. No. 88 is 51 feet tall with a trunk 10 inches in diameter, and has possibly grown from a seed dropped by its neighbor, No. 89. No. 19 is on the lawn southwest of the Mansion and is 75 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet in diameter. This tree is in good condition and as the Coffee Bean is a slow-growing tree it is possible, but hardly probable, that it was planted in Washington's lifetime.

ASHES—There are several White Ash-trees (*Fraxinus americana*) near the Mansion. Nos. 29, 47, 50, 58, 67, 87, 94 and 110 of the plan were probably planted under the direction of Washington. No. 29 is 91 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 11 inches in diameter. No. 47 is 87 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 2 inches in diameter. No. 50 is 87 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 4 inches in diameter. No. 58 is 97 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 3 inches in diameter. No. 67 is 95 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 2 inches in diameter. No. 87 is 86 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 3 inches in diameter. No. 94 is 83 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 7 inches in diameter, and No. 110 is 89 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 3 inches in diameter. These trees are in good condition. No. 63, which is also of Washington's time, stands at the right of the Flower Garden gate, No. 58 standing on the left-hand side of the gate. The two trees were formerly of the same size,

but a gale in 1896 destroyed more than half of No. 63, leaving large cavities in the side of the trunk, which unfortunately have been filled with cement. This tree is in bad condition and it is probable that it will not live many years. Other Ash-trees planted after Washington's time are: No. 12, a tree with four stems 75 feet tall; No. 26, 65 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 8 inches in diameter; No. 38, 74 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 1 inch in diameter; No. 43, 29 feet tall with a trunk 6 inches in diameter; No. 96, 63 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 5 inches in diameter; No. 102, 65 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet in diameter; No. 124, 77 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 4 inches in diameter, and No. 125, 80 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 4 inches in diameter. These trees are all healthy and in good condition.

LINDENS—The largest of the Lindens, undoubtedly of Washington's time, No. 48 (*Tilia glabra*), is 84 feet tall with a splendid trunk 4 feet 3 inches in diameter. A part of the head of this tree was destroyed by the gale of June 28, 1914. It is otherwise in good condition and one of the noblest of Washington's trees. No. 54 (*Tilia glabra*), is 90 feet tall. The trunk of this tree, which is 3 feet 1 inch in diameter, divides near the ground into two stems which may, unless strengthened, be split apart by a strong wind. No. 25 (*Tilia vulgaris*) is 64 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 4 inches in diameter. This tree was probably not planted during Washington's lifetime. No. 51 (*Tilia glabra*) is 70 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 5 inches in diameter. This tree is in good condition, but probably was not planted by Washington. No. 115 (*Tilia glabra*), at the library end of the Mansion, is 83 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 8 inches in diameter. This is one of the best trees at Mount Vernon. I should have supposed that it had been planted during Washington's life without the conclusive evidence that it was planted by Mrs. J. A. Washington in 1858. No. 114 (*Tilia neglecta*), now 5 feet tall, was planted in 1916 at the east end of the Mansion to correspond with No. 115 at the other end.

HONEY LOCUSTS—The position of four Honey Locust-trees (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) is shown on the plan. No. 45, which is 83 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 7 inches in diameter, may have been planted by Washington, but I feel doubtful about the age of the others. No. 30 is 70 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 5 inches in diameter; No. 70 is 70 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet in diameter; No. 39 is 70 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet in diameter; No. 41 is 67 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 8 inches in diameter, and No. 101 is 70 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 6 inches in diameter. The Honey Locust is a fast-growing and not a long-lived tree. It produces great quantities of seeds, which germinate readily, and it is not improbable that the large trees now at Mount Vernon have sprung up naturally from seeds shed by a tree planted by Washington or his brother Lawrence, which long ago disappeared. Washington's interest in this tree is shown by the fact that on March 23, 1786, he planted "between 17,000 and 18,000 seeds of the Honey Locust."

BUCKEYES—The position of seven Buckeye-trees (*Æsculus octandra* variety) is shown on the plan. The seeds from which these trees were grown were gathered by Washington near the mouth of Cheet River, in what is now West Virginia, in September, 1784, and were planted by him in April of the following year. To botanists these trees are of greater interest than any other plants at Mount Vernon, for this species has naturally yellow flowers, but these Mount Vernon trees have red, pink and flesh-colored flowers on different individuals. Trees with flowers of these colors have been looked for in vain in the Appalachian forests, and except at Mount Vernon are nowhere known to exist. The tree (No. 24) has dark red flowers and is 24 feet tall with a trunk 9 inches in diameter. No. 28 is 53 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 1 inch in diameter. The bark of this tree is loose and scaling off; it is developing branchlets from buds on the trunk and is in an unhealthy condition. No. 32 is 75 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 4 inches in diameter; this tree originally had two stems; one of these was destroyed by the falling of the Hemlock (No. 31) in the gale of June, 1914. The remainder of the tree is now in good condition. No. 59 has rose-colored flowers and is 73 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 9 inches in diameter; No. 85 has red flowers and is 58 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 5 inches in diameter; No. 92 has flesh-colored flowers and is 71 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 11 inches in diameter, and No. 79 has flesh-colored flowers and is 47 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 5 inches in diameter. With the exception of No. 28 the Mount Vernon Buckeyes are in good condition.

HORSE-CHESTNUTS—There are three Horse-chestnut-trees (*Æsculus Hippocastanum*) at Mount Vernon. Two of them, Nos. 116 and 117, in the rear of the Springhouse, are young trees, No. 116 being 42 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot in diameter, and No. 117 only 20 feet tall with a trunk 8 inches in diameter. The third of these trees, No. 46, is between the Serpentine Walk and the Kitchen Garden and is 55 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 8 inches in diameter. This tree is overshadowed by an Ash-tree and evidently has grown slowly. On April 13, 1785, Washington entered in his Diary the fact that he was planting four Horse-chestnuts along Serpentine Walks, and it is possible, although hardly probable, that No. 46 is one of the trees planted by him.

ELMS—There are now ten American Elm-trees (*Ulmus americana*) standing in the neighborhood of the Mansion. Of these No. 1 is a young tree only 32 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot in diameter; No. 36 is also a young tree only 23 feet tall with a trunk 5 inches in diameter. According to his Diary, Washington was busy on January 27 and 28, 1785, in hunting for Elm-trees for his plantations, and it is probable that some of the Mount Vernon Elms were planted under his personal direction, although if they were planted in 1785 none of them are large trees for their age. It must be remembered, however, that the soil where these trees are growing is not well suited for the best development of the

American Elm. No. 44 is 90 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 11 inches in diameter; No. 56 is 84 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 2 inches in diameter; No. 106 is 63 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 10 inches in diameter, and No. 107 is 89 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 3 inches in diameter. Nos. 106 and 107 stand between the Office and the Gardener's House. On the East Lawn No. 109 is 80 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 4 inches in diameter, and on the West Lawn No. 103 is 91 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 4 inches in diameter and the largest of the Mount Vernon Elm-trees. Two other Elms on the East Lawn are indicated on the plan; No. 111 is a young tree 47 feet tall with a trunk 15 inches in diameter, and No. 132 is 55 feet tall with a trunk 22 inches in diameter.

Between the Serpentine Walk and the Kitchen Garden a tree of the European Cork Elm (*Ulmus foliacea*, var. *suberosa*), No. 8-1, is 35 feet tall with a trunk 10 inches in diameter.

All the Mount Vernon Elm-trees are healthy and in good condition.

MAPLES—There are two Maples on the Serpentine Walk and they were probably both planted during Washington's lifetime. No. 69 is a Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) 91 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 11 inches in diameter. Several of the upper branches of this tree were broken in the gale of June 28, 1914. The tree, however, is recovering and is now in good condition and a magnificent specimen. No. 33 is a Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*) 85 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 3 inches in diameter, and is a fine healthy tree.

BEECHES—There are two American Beech-trees (*Fagus grandifolia*) planted in the corners of the Bowling Green nearest the Mansion. No. 99 is 89 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 9 inches in diameter, and No. 90 is 69 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 5 inches in diameter. They are good specimens with tall straight trunks and, judging by their size, were planted during Washington's lifetime.

PECANS—There are three Pecan-trees, or Mississippi or Illinois nuts, as Washington called them (*Carya pecan*), at Mount Vernon. According to the Diary, these trees were planted March 25, 1775, and are therefore so far as we know the oldest of the trees planted by Washington. Apart from the fact that they were planted by Washington these trees are of great interest, as they were given to him by Jefferson, who in 1784 first published a technical description of this tree in his "Notes from Virginia," and who apparently first distributed in the Eastern States living plants brought from the Mississippi valley. The three Pecan-trees are in good condition and, unless blown over or injured by gales, probably have not lived out half their lives. They are on the lawn southwest and east of the Mansion; No. 118 is 97 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 6 inches in diameter; No. 120 is 98 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 4 inches in diameter, and No. 129, on the East Lawn, is 86 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 2 inches in diameter.

WALNUTS—Washington's interest in the so-called English or French Walnut (*Juglans regia*) is shown by the fact that on September 15, 1763, he "planted in eleven holes on west side of garden twenty-two English Walnuts," and on March 28, 1770, he "planted three French walnuts in new garden and on that side next the Work House." On February 9, 1785, he "transplanted English Walnut trees from corner near where the old schoolhouse stood to the upper side." Nothing is left from these plantings and there are now only two young English Walnut-trees at Mount Vernon. No. 93 is 41 feet tall with a trunk 14 inches in diameter and stands in the enclosure south of the Flower Garden used by Washington as a botanical garden or trial ground for plants sent him from different parts of the country and from the West Indies. No. 68, which is in the Kitchen Garden, is 42 feet tall with a trunk 15 inches in diameter.

Washington makes no mention in his Diary of the Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and it is not probable that he planted the two trees now growing on the East Lawn, but as this tree is a native of the region these two Walnuts may have been growing there during his lifetime, although as the trees are not large this is not probable. No. 113 is 74 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet in diameter, and No. 135 is 81 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 6 inches in diameter.

A young Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*). No. 100, stands between the Butler's House and the Smokehouse, and is 18 feet tall with a trunk 5 inches in diameter.

LOCUSTS—Although there are two brief mentions of this tree in the Diary, it is not probable that Washington neglected so valuable a tree as the Locust (*Robinia Pseudacacia*). Young Locust-trees are now common at Mount Vernon, but none are old enough to have been of Washington's time. The positions of three of these trees are shown on the plan. No. 75 is now 66 feet tall with a trunk 24 inches in diameter; No. 104 is 61 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet in diameter; and No. 105, which is only 19 feet high, was planted in the autumn of 1916 to take the place of a Locust-tree which stood in Washington's time at the corner of the Kitchen and was used as a hitching-post for visitors' horses.

MULBERRIES—It is natural that Washington should have been interested in Mulberry-trees on account of their fruit and probably with the idea of providing food for silk-worms and the making of silk. As early as March, 1765, we find him "grafting fifteen English Mulberries on wild Mulberry stocks." There is no English Mulberry and his scions may have been from a Black Mulberry (*Morus nigra*) from southeastern Europe and Asia Minor, or from a White Mulberry (*Morus alba*), the Chinese tree which furnishes the principal food for silk-worms. On February 28, 1785, he "planted all the Mulberry trees, Maple trees and Black Gums in Serpentine Walk." Only one Mulberry-tree (No. 20) is now standing in the area covered by the plan; it is a White Mulberry 60 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 3 inches in diameter. This is probably one of the trees planted by Washington.

SASSAFRAS—On March 3, 1785, Washington was planting Sassafras-trees (*Sassafras variifolium*) in his shrubberies. Large Sassafras-trees have been blown down at Mount Vernon in recent years and there are only two of these trees shown on the plan; one of these (No. 21) stands next to the White Mulberry and is 50 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 4 inches in diameter; the other is in the northeast corner of the East Lawn and is No. 137. This tree is 62 feet tall with a trunk 21 inches in diameter. The Sassafras is a common native tree in Virginia and the two Mount Vernon specimens are probably not planted trees.

REDBUDS—On February 28 and March 3, 1785, Washington was planting Redbud-trees (*Cercis canadensis*) at Mount Vernon, and the position of four of these trees is marked on the plan. No. 35 stands in the west border of the Flower Garden and has two stems each 31 feet high and 8 inches in diameter. No. 61, which is on the Serpentine Walk near the entrance to the Flower Garden, is 20 feet tall with a trunk 7 inches in diameter; No. 52, which is on the opposite side of the Bowling Green, is 33 feet tall with a trunk 7 inches in diameter. Judging by their size and vigor, these trees could not have been planted in the eighteenth century. No. 121, which stands near the east end of the Mansion, is a shoot from the stump of an old tree which may have been planted by Washington.

DOGWOODS—On February 22, 1785, Washington "moved several young trees of Sassafras, Dogwood and Redbud to the shrubbery on No. side of the grass plat." That he appreciated the beauty which can be obtained by contrasting the white flowers of the Dogwood with the rose-colored flowers of the Redbud is shown by his planting on March 1, 1795, "a circle of Dogwood with a Redbud in the middle close to the old Cherry tree near the south garden house." There are two large Dogwood-trees northwest of the Flower Garden which may have been growing where they now stand before Washington's death, although it is impossible to decide whether they were planted or are natural trees. No. 22 is 28 feet tall with a trunk 10 inches in diameter, and No. 23 is 26 feet tall with a trunk 12 inches in diameter.

HOLLIES—Washington appreciated the beauty of the native Holly (*Ilex opaca*), which is often mentioned in his Diary, and there are now thirteen large specimens of this tree standing at Mount Vernon which were probably planted during his lifetime. This Holly grows slowly and trees one hundred years old which have grown naturally under more favorable conditions are often not larger than the Mount Vernon trees. No. 11 is 19 feet tall with a trunk 9 inches in diameter; No. 18-1 is 31 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 4 inches in diameter; No. 27 is 28 feet tall with a trunk 7 inches in diameter; No. 34 is 38 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot in diameter; No. 49 is 37 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot in diameter; No. 60 is 37 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 1 inch in diameter; No. 86 is 30 feet tall

with a trunk 1 foot in diameter; No. 91 is 22 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 1 inch in diameter. Nos. 127 and 128 are on the East Lawn near the Mansion and are 23 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 2 inches in diameter, and 26 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot in diameter; No. 98 is 27 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot in diameter; No. 64 is 28 feet tall with a trunk 11 inches in diameter, and No. 40 is 50 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 2 inches in diameter. One side of the top of No. 91 was destroyed by a gale in 1896 and a large cavity at the top of the trunk is filled with cement. This is a berry bearing tree with a handsome straight stem; it is still growing vigorously and will probably form in time a new head of branches. The other Holly-trees are symmetrical and in good condition.

SORBUS—Washington in his Diary mentions the planting of Sorbus-trees, probably *Sorbus domestica*, the English Service tree, as there is an old specimen of this tree (No. 37) standing near the northwest corner of the Bowling Green. This tree is 31 feet tall with a trunk 15 inches in diameter. It is failing rapidly and probably cannot live many years.

OAKS—The positions of ten Oak-trees are shown on the plan, and, although probably none of them were planted by Washington, it seems desirable to include them in this report, as they are large and conspicuous healthy trees which may live for many years. No. 6 stands to the right of the entrance to the Bowling Green northwest of the Kitchen Garden and is a noble White Oak (*Quercus alba*) 98 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet in diameter. With the exception of the Yellow Poplars and one Pecan this is the tallest tree at Mount Vernon. On the left of the entrance are three Red or Spanish Oaks (*Quercus rubra*). No. 13 is a double tree 90 feet tall with two stems, each 3 feet 5 inches in diameter; No. 14 is 85 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 5 inches in diameter, and No. 15 is a young tree 56 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 8 inches in diameter. On the southeast corner of the East Lawn there are four White Oaks, Nos. 130, 131, 136 and 137. No. 130 is 68 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 8 inches in diameter; No. 131 is 63 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet in diameter; No. 136 is 76 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 3 inches in diameter, and No. 137 is 59 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 2 inches in diameter. A beautiful narrow-leaved Chestnut Oak (*Quercus Muehlenbergii*), No. 124-1, stands just inside the Deer Park fence at the bottom of the North Lawn and is 70 feet tall with a trunk 3 feet 6 inches in diameter. A White Oak on the West Lawn south of the Mansion (No. 126) is 74 feet tall and 4 feet 4 inches in diameter, and the Red or Spanish Oak by the Summer House (No. 122) is 83 feet tall and 4 feet 8 inches in diameter. These Oaks have not been injured by gales and are all well-shaped healthy trees.

MAGNOLIAS—On May 21, 1785, Washington noted in his Diary that he had received plants of the large Magnolia of South Carolina (*Magnolia grandiflora*) and on the 18th of November he put them in the greenhouse for the Winter. On April 6th of the following year Washington

"transplanted 46 large Magnolias of So. Carolina—6 at the head of each of the serpentine walks next the circle, 26 in the shrubbery or grove at the South end of the house, and 8 in that at the No. end;" and on the 8th of that month he "transplanted as many of the large Magnolia into the grove at the No. end of the House as made the number there." On May 2, 1786, he "planted seed of the large Magnolia or Laurel of Carolina in boxes near the greenhouse." Of these Magnolias planted by Washington only one remains; this (No. 97) stands not far from the Butler's House and is 50 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet in diameter; 30 feet of the trunk of this tree were destroyed in the gale of September 28, 1896, and it now has a misshapen head. This tree, however, is in a healthy condition and will probably live for many years.

HEMLOCKS—That Washington appreciated the beauty of the Hemlock-tree (*Tsuga canadensis*) is shown by the entries in the Diary in March, 1785; on the 11th he "planted Hemlock scions (28 of them) in ye shrubbery," and on the next day he "planted two Hemlock trees in a line with the East end of the Kitchen and Servants Hall, and 10 feet from the corner of the post & rail fence at each." On July 5th of the same year he notes that he received from General Lincoln, among other trees, "two of the Fir or Hemlock in half barrels, which seemed to be healthy and vegetating." On the 10th of November of that year he planted eight more Hemlocks, and on January 30th of the next year he planted another Hemlock-tree. From these plantings only three trees, all standing on the Flower Garden side of the Bowling Green, are now alive. The trunk of No. 31 originally divided at the base into two main stems; these were blown over in the gale of June 28, 1914. One of the stems was destroyed and the other, which is 74 feet high with a diameter of 2 feet 3 inches, has been set up and is now held in place by guy ropes. This tree is dying and probably will not live many months. No. 55 is 65 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 1 inch in diameter; although much crowded and shaded by other trees, it is sound and healthy. No. 83, which is 81 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 6 inches in diameter, is the tallest and handsomest of the Hemlocks planted by Washington. This tree was struck by lightning in 1897, but is still in good condition and is covering the wound with new bark. It may live for many years, although trees which have been struck by lightning do not often long survive the shock. This tree is suffering from two neighboring trees, which interfere with its symmetrical growth.

A Hemlock-tree (No. 37-1), now 15 feet tall with a trunk 4 inches in diameter, was planted in 1912 to replace one of the Hemlocks planted by Washington and blown down in that year. Three young Hemlock-trees planted in 1916 are now growing north of the northern end of the Kitchen Garden and on the plan are marked Nos. 2, 7 and 8, and are 18, 17 and 19 inches high. Five Hemlock-trees, now about 4 feet tall, were planted in November, 1915, along the Serpentine Walk to take the places of original trees which had disappeared; they are Nos. 31-1, 31-2, 40-1, 40-2, 40-3.

RED CEDARS—Nine Red Cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) are growing in the area covered by the plan. Washington certainly knew the value of this conifer, for it is one of the common trees in the Potomac Valley, and in the last entry in his Diary relating to trees, dated March 8, 1796, he says: "On Saturday last the dead Cedars in my shrubberies were replaced by live ones just taken up." This is the only mention of the Red Cedar in the Diary. Of the Cedars now at Mount Vernon, No. 53, which is the only one on the Serpentine Walk, may have been planted by Washington, although it is only 45 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 4 inches in diameter; if planted by him it might well have been a much larger tree. The other Cedars are Nos. 3, 4, 5, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 134. No. 3 is 36 feet tall with a trunk 12 inches in diameter; No. 4 is 30 feet tall with a trunk 13 inches in diameter; No. 5 is 38 feet tall with a trunk 15 inches in diameter; No. 16 is 33 feet tall with a trunk 8 inches in diameter; No. 17 is 38 feet tall with a trunk 9 inches in diameter; No. 18 is 47 feet tall with a trunk 14 inches in diameter, and No. 19 is 44 feet tall with a trunk 16 inches in diameter. No. 134, which is on the East Lawn near the Deer Park fence, is 40 feet tall with a trunk 11 inches in diameter. Judging by the size and position of these trees, I believe that they sprang up naturally sometime after the death of Washington.

WHITE PINES—Washington makes many references in his Diary to the planting of Pine-trees, but they probably all refer to the common Pine of the Mount Vernon region (*Pinus virginiana*). He says nothing of the White Pine (*Pinus Strobus*) with which he must have become familiar during his journeys to the west, and there is no evidence that he ever planted this tree. There are now, however, three young White Pines growing at Mount Vernon, Nos. 28, 81 and 112. The first is near the Schoolroom and is now 12 inches tall. No. 112 is on the East Lawn and is 23 feet tall with a trunk 7 inches in diameter, and No. 81, on the west border of the Bowling Green, is 10 inches tall.

BOX—On the west side of the Bowling Green near the entrance to the Kitchen Garden are three handsome and healthy Box-trees (*Buxus sempervirens*). No. 66 stands nearly opposite the gate of the Kitchen Garden; it is 21 feet tall and well furnished with gracefully drooping branches. This is one of the handsomest and most interesting trees at Mount Vernon. Nos. 77 and 80 are 17 and 22 feet tall and are healthy, handsome trees. These three trees were probably planted by Washington.

APPLES AND PEARS—In the Kitchen Garden are now standing one Apple-tree (No. 71) 45 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 2 inches in diameter, and three Pear-trees; of these No. 10 is 39 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 5 inches in diameter; No. 72 is 40 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 7 inches in diameter, and No. 73 is 35 feet tall with a trunk 1 foot 5 inches in diameter. These three Pear-trees may be of Washington's time, but the Apple-tree was probably planted later.

CHERRY—There is now standing on the East Lawn a Cherry-tree (*Prunus avium*), No. 137-1, 55 feet tall with a trunk 2 feet 3 inches in diameter. Judging by its position, this may have sprung from a seed from one of Washington's garden Cherry-trees dropped by a bird.

NETTLE TREE—Near the Cherry-tree a Nettle-tree (*Celtis occidentalis*), No. 134-1, is 61 feet tall with a trunk 21 inches in diameter. This tree is too small to have been planted by Washington.

CEDAR OF LEBANON—A Cedar of Lebanon (*Cedrus patula*), No. 123, near the Summer House, was planted in 1874 and is now 59 feet tall with a trunk 11 inches in diameter. When several exotic trees, known only since Washington's death, were removed from Mount Vernon this Cedar was left, for Washington, although he apparently never planted one of these trees, might have done so, as the Cedar of Lebanon was well known in his time.

Measurements of the Mount Vernon trees have been made by Mr. H. H. Dodge, the Superintendent, who has placed their exact positions on the plan, and without his assistance it would have been impossible for me to have prepared this report. The measurement of the trunks was taken at 3 feet above the surface of the ground. The plan has been prepared for publication in the office of Mr. Guy Lowell, of Boston, to whom the Association is indebted for this assistance.

LIST OF TREES PLANTED AT MOUNT VERNON SINCE 1914 AT THE SUGGESTION OF PROFESSOR SARGENT

1700 Dogwoods (*Cornus florida*).
117 Redbuds (*Cercis canadensis*).
36 Yews (*Taxus baccata*).
78 Hollies (*Ilex opaca*).
18 Fringe trees (*Chionanthus virginica*).
12 Live Oaks (*Quercus virginiana*).
12 Laurel Oaks (*Quercus laurifolia*).
9 Hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*).
6 Magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*).
2 Swamp Magnoilas (*Magnolia glauca*).
3 White Pines (*Pinus Strobus*).
1 Linden (*Tilia neglecta*).
10 Tupelos (*Nyssa sylvatica*).
255 Red Cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*).
101 Native Pines (*Pinus virginiana*).
250 English Hawthorns (*Cratægus oxyacantha*).

These Dogwoods and Redbuds have been mostly planted to increase the beauty of the woods, where they grow naturally. The Live Oaks, Laurel Oaks and Magnolias are now planted in the enclosure south of the Flower Garden. The Hollies have been planted to make a hedge along the drive between the Spinning House and the Boiler Room, and the English Hawthorns in a hedge next to the fence in the rear of the Quarters' Building. These hedges have been planted because Washington made various unsuccessful attempts to establish Holly and Hawthorn hedges at Mount Vernon. The Linden has been planted at the northeast end of the Mansion to match the Linden (No. 115) at the Library end of the house. Of the Red Cedars, one hundred and twenty-seven were planted in the neighborhood of the Tomb, one hundred and thirteen along the northeast boundary of the estate, and fifteen near the Boiler Room. The native Pines are on each side of the entrance to the Bowling Green, where Washington planted Pine-trees in what he spoke of as "The Wilderness."

TREES MENTIONED BY WASHINGTON IN HIS DIARY, AS PLANTED BY HIM AT MOUNT VERNON, WHICH HAVE DISAPPEARED

Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*).

Black Haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*), now represented at Mount Vernon by young plants.

Balsam-tree (*Abies balsamea*).

Black Gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), now represented at Mount Vernon by young plants.

Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*).

Crab-tree (*Malus coronaria*).

Fringe-tree (*Chionanthus virginica*), now represented at Mount Vernon by small plants.

Gloucester Hickory Nut (*Carya laciniosa*).

Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*), now represented at Mount Vernon by young plants.

Mahogany-tree (*Swietenia mahagoni*).

Mediterranean Pine (*Pinus Pinea*).

Native Pine (*Pinus virginiana*), now represented at Mount Vernon by young plants.

Palmetto-tree (*Sabal Palmetto*).

Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*).

Pistachia Nut (*Pistachia vera*).

Pride of China (*Melia Azedarach*).

Small-berried Thorn (*Crataegus phaenopyrum*).

Spanish Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*).

Shellbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*).

Spruce Pine (*Picea mariana*).

Swamp Magnolia (*Magnolia glauca*), now represented at Mount Vernon by small plants.

Water Oak (*Quercus nigra*).

Weeping Willow (*Salix babylonica*), now represented at Mount Vernon by trees along the river bank.

Yellow Willow (?).

Yew (*Taxus baccata*), now represented at Mount Vernon by young plants.

27[illegible]

THE TREES SHOWN ON THE PLAN

Numbers in heavy face type indicate trees probably planted during Washington's lifetime. Numbers in italics indicate trees possibly planted during Washington's lifetime. Other numbers indicate trees planted since Washington's death.

Apple—No. 71.
Ash—Nos. 26, 29, 38, 43, **47, 50, 58, 67, 87, 94**, 96, 102, **110.**
Beech—Nos. **90, 99.**
Black Walnut—Nos. 114, 135.
Box—Nos. **66, 77, 80.**
Buckeye—Nos. **24, 28, 32, 59, 79, 85, 92.**
Butternut—No. 100.
Cedar of Lebanon—No. 123.
Chestnut Oak—No. 124-1.
Cherry—No. 137-1.
Coffee Bean—Nos. **70, 76,** 84, 88, 89, *120.*
Dogwood—Nos. 22, 23.
American Elm—Nos. 1, 8-1, 36, **44, 56, 103,** *106, 107,* **109,** 111, 132, 134-1.
European Elm—No. 8-1.
English Walnut—Nos. 68, 93.
Hemlock—Nos. 2, 7, 8, **31,** 31-1, 31-2, 37-1, 40-1, 40-2, 40-3, 52, **55, 83.**
Holly—Nos. **11, 13, 18-1, 27, 34, 40, 49, 60, 64, 86, 91, 127, 128.**
Honey Locust—Nos *30, 45, 70, 101.*
Horse-chestnut—Nos. *46,* 116, 117.
Linden—Nos. 25, **48, 50, 54,** 111, 115.
Magnolia—No. **97.**
Mulberry—No. **20.**
Nettle-tree—No. 134-1.
Pear—Nos. *10, 72.*
Pecan—Nos. **118, 120, 129.**
Redbud—Nos. 35, 52, 61, *121.*
Red Cedar—Nos. 3, 4, 5, 16, 17, 18, 19, *53,* 134.
Red Maple—No. **33.**
Red Oak—Nos. 13, 14, 15, 122.
Sassafras—Nos. 21, 137.
Sorbus—No. **37.**
Sugar Maple—No. **69.**
White Oak—Nos. 6, 126, 130, 131, 136, 137.
White Pine—Nos. 28, 81, 112.
Yellow Poplar or Tulip-tree—Nos. **57, 62, 65.**

Arnold Arboretum, May, 1917.

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